The Government remains firmly committed to countering the challenge posed by terorism. Towards this end, a multi-pronged strategy is beng pursued in close conjunction with the State Governments, which involves measures to check infiltration from across the borders, deployment of Central Security Forces in Areas prone to terrorist violence, continuous vigilance and strengthening of security arrangements in vulnerable areas and around vital installations, sharing of intelligence, strengthening of State Police Forces and up-gradation of their capabilities to deal with terrorist activities through the schemes of Police modernization and raising of India Reserve battalions, etc. Efforts are also being made to strengthen bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation at the international level with the aim of combating terrorism through arrangements for Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition Treaties, exchange of information and intelligence, etc.

(d) and (e) The population of all religious communities in the North Eastern States has in 2001 census *vis-a-vis* the 1991 census. The increase in population cannot be attributed entirely to infiltration.

Steps to settle border disputes between Assam and its neighbouring states

913. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government towards the settlement of border disputes between Assam and neighbouring States *viz.*; Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, etc.; and

(b) whether Government proposes to constitute a Commission for the same and to look into these matters within a particular time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* their judgement dated 25.9.2006 has appointed a Local Commission for identification of boundaries between the States of Assam-Nagaland and Assam-Arunachal Pradesh.

In regard to boundary dispute between Assam-Meghalaya, the government has advised both the State Governments from time to time to resolve the issue through mutual understanding.

Deaths in jail custody

914. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) number of deaths which occurred in jails during last 10 years, where jail officials were suspected to be *prima-facie* guilty;

(b) how the above unnatural suspicious deaths in jail custody were disposed off and in how many First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered and guilty convicted;

(c) whether on average 21000 under trial prisoners remain in detention in jails in India, which results in overcrowding; and

(d) if so, whether Section 436(I) and 436A of Cr PC are not being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Since Prisons is a State subject as per list II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, this data is not maintained centrally. However, as per the statistics compiled by National Crimes Record Bureau, details indicating the number of natural and unnatural deaths which occurred in jails during the last 10 years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) The information is not maintained centrally.

(c) Against the total prison population of 358368 at the end of 2005 there were 237076 undertrials which constituted 66.15% of the prison population and the occupancy rate in prisons was 145.4%.

(d) The State Governments are required to make use of the provisions under sections 436A and 436(I) of Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. P.C.) to reduce the number of undertrials in prisosn. The Central Government has also advised the State Governments to take recourse to these amendments.

Statement

Number of natural and unnatural deaths in jails during last 10 years

Year	Natural Death	Unnatural Deaths	Total
1996	323	50	373
1997	303	61	364
1998	737	85	822
1999	792	69	861
2000	742	70	812
2001	884	94	978
2002	949	83	1032
2003	973	87	1060
2004	1038	131	1169
2005	1320	67	1387

Project to tackle Maoists in A.P., Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

915. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to launch a project to tackle Maoists in four States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this project would be monitored by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in consultation with the States; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to develop infrastructure in the Maoists affected districts of Orissa to help control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Law and order being a State subject, dealing with the various issues related to naxalite activities in a State primarily lies in the domain of the concerned State Government. The Central Government maintains close and continuous watch on the situation, including detailed consultations with the State Government authorities about various developments and the steps required to check and control naxalite activities. Taking steps as appropriate and necessary, having regard to the situation obtaining, is a continuous process.

The concerned State Governments undertake necessary action in respect of naxalite activities. The Central Government supplements their efforts and resources by various measures, which include deployment of Central paramilitary forces to assist the State police forces, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions to the States, assistance for strengthening of the State police and intelligence agencies, reimbursement of security related expenditure,